THE IDOLM@STER 2
アイドルマスター
The World is all one !!
CM
AND THAT ENDS THE TALK PART OF THE FIRST HALF.
FINALLY...
NOW IT'S TIME FOR RYUUGUU KOMACHI
AND JUPITER'S ...
ゴクリ
ドキ ドキ ドキ ドキ ドキ

EVERYONE, SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
SINGING COMPETITION CORNER
「Live×Alive」!!
WHO WILL CAPTURE MORE OF THE FANS' HEARTS?!
FIRST UP...
THIS IS A SPECIAL CARD FOR BOTH UNITS NOMINATED FOR THE IA GRAND PRIZE!
ENJOY THIS DIRECT COMPETITION TO YOUR HEARTS CONTENT!

CHAPTER 24 "ANOTHER BOND"

祐佑（ゆうゆう） 原作／バンダイナムコゲームス

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RITSUKO-SAN!
GOOD WORK. WERE THERE ANY SIGNS OF SOME KIND OF TRAP?
NO, I DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT SO FAR.
EVERYONE ATTENDING WAS SELECTED THROUGH A LOTTERY.
THE MALE-TO-FEMALE RATIO WAS PURPOSELY UNBIASED.
THE JUDGING OF THIS PROGRAM ALSO SEEMS FINE
SINCE IT USES A TALLY STYLE.
IF THE TYPICAL AUDIENCE MEMBER IS RANDOM, THERE'S A LOW CHANCE OF THEM BEING BRIBED.
THERE WOULD BE TOO MUCH OF A RISK OF CRITICISM.
You can't stop people from talking.

I CAN'T SEE ANY UNNATURAL BEHAVIOR OR ACTIONS AMONG THE STAFF RIGHT NOW.
WELL, THEIR AIM MUST BE TO "DEFEAT RYUUGUU KOMACHI", RIGHT?
CAN YOU THINK OF... ANYTHING THAT WOULD INTERFERE WITH US AT THIS STAGE?
AT LEAST HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING BLATANTLY OBVIOUS.
THERE WON'T BE ANY BAD INFLUENCES ON HOW THE PROGRAM PLAYS OUT.
SO THAT MEANS...
YEAH.
HOW WE WANTED TO HAVE
AN HONEST COMPETITION OF OUR ABILITIES.

AHAHA...
I STILL CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU, CAN I?
RITSUKO... AREN'T YOU THE MOST NERVOUS HERE?
It's a little pathetic though.
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
I'M A LITTLE UNEASY BRINGING YOU GUYS UP ON STAGE.
I TRIED NOT TO SHOW IT UNTIL NOW, BUT
A-ARA ARA, IS THAT SO..?
HMPH... SO THAT MEANS YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FAITH IN US?
RICCHAN, THAT'S NOT FAIR!
T-
THAT'S NOT IT, IT'S THE OPPOSITE, THE OP-POSITE!

I MEAN, YOU GUYS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT WITH EVERYTHING I'VE TAUGHT YOU, RIGHT?
Y-YEAH, WELL...
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO...?
Daily Intensive Training Hell
Hey hey Stand up! Rise from your grave
BUT YOU FORCED US TO DO NOTHING BUT THAT...
ンホー
UMM, I MEAN,
IN CASE YOU AREN'T SUCCESSFUL,
THAT WOULD BE MY FAULT
BECAUSE I WAS YOUR PRODUCER IN CHARGE OF YOUR LESSONS
AND SELECTING JOBS FOR YOU.
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS THINK ABOUT IT WHEN I BRING YOU UP TO THE STAGE.
I WONDER IF THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE I COULD HAVE DONE
TO PREPARE YOU FOR WHEN I SEND YOU OUT.

EXCELLENT!
THAT ONE WORD SUMS UP THE PERFORMANCE!
UP NEXT IS RYUUGUU KOMACHI!
RITSUKO
RIC-CHAN
RITSUKO-SAN
AMI'S ALWAYS FULLY PREPARED!
WILL THEY BE ABLE TO STIR UP EVEN MORE PASSION THAN JUPITER?!
UFUFU, THANKS TO YOU, RITSUKO-SAN.
...THAT'S RIGHT.
SO...

DON'T WORRY
WATCH US FROM THERE!

音響室
キュッ
OKAY,
DO IT.

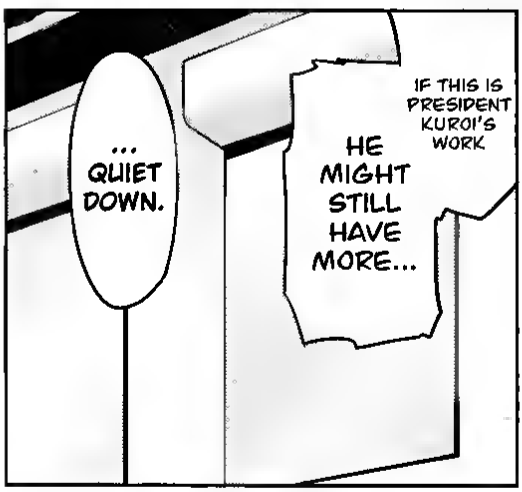
THE MIC'S VOLUME?!
BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT'S BROKEN.
WE CAN DEAL WITH IT WITH THE VOLUME OF OUR VOICES.
... LET'S KEEP GOING!

タタッ
It can't be...
JUST NOW, FOR JUST AN INSTANT THEY...

MAYBE THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THE MICS?
AS SOON AS THEY STARTED SINGING, THEIR VOICE VOLUME DROPPED UNNATURALLY, DIDN'T IT?
REALLY?
YEAH, AND THEN
IT SEEMED LIKE THE WAY THEY USED THEIR VOICES CHANGED...
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY GREW STRONGER,
EVEN IF ONLY A LITTLE.
THEY'RE NOT JUST NERVOUS?
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, IT WOULD HAVE SHOWN FROM THE BEGINNING ...
MIKI'S A LITTLE WORRIED TOO.
I DIDN'T NOTICE THEIR VOICES, BUT
LIKE CHIHAYA-SAN SAID, WHEN THEY FIRST STARTED SINGING,
DEKO-CHAN AND THE OTHERS' EXPRESSIONS STIFFENED FOR A SECOND.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE HAS NOTICED YET.

IT'S TRUE.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT FINALLY SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING'S WRONG...
BUT,
EVEN IF SOMETHING'S HAPPENING THAT'S GIVING THEM TROUBLE,

IT MIGHT BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT CHIHAYA-CHAN AND MIKI THINK.
IF THEY TRY TO GET THROUGH THIS...
IF THIS IS JUST THE EQUIPMENT BREAKING DOWN,


IF THIS IS PRESIDENT KUROI'S WORK
HE MIGHT STILL HAVE MORE...
...QUIET DOWN.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT.
LET ME CONCEN-TRATE ON THE SOUND.

DON'T YOU THINK THE TIMING IS TOO PERFECT?
THEY WERE FINE FOR JUPITER, AND YET THEY BROKE RIGHT AS RYUUGUU KOMACHI STARTED SINGING.

AS I THOUGHT. IT'S NOT VERY EFFECTIVE.
...WHAT A SKILLFUL LOT.
Acoustic Room
THE MIC VOLUME
NEXT TRY RAISING IT.
EVEN THOUGH THE MIC LEVELS ARE BEING CONSTANTLY CHANGED A LITTLE BIT.
JUST BY USING THEIR VOICES THEY CAN ADJUST TO THE OPTIMUM VOLUME.
BUT ANYWAY.
THAT BURDEN WILL BECOME RIDICULOUS.
CAN THEY KEEP THAT UP UNTIL THE END WITHOUT LOSING THEIR VOLUME?
KEEP SHAKING THEM UP LIKE THAT.
IF WE KEEP THIS UP TILL THE END
ALSO ADJUST THE OTHER SOUNDS.
IT'LL END UP AS A USELESS STRUGGLE FOR THEM.

PRESIDENT KUROI?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE WE GOT HERE...
...I SEE.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
DON'T TELL ME, OLD MAN KUROI'S GONE TOO FAR...
I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S ANY ACTUAL PROBLEM.
BUT I FELT THAT RYUUGUU KOMACHI WAS ACTING STRANGELY,
SO I THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE THE CASE.
I ONLY CAME TO MAKE SURE.
IT SEEMS THEY
...
SORRY TO DOUBT YOU.
DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING ON
.....

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS TOO.
ABOUT THE SOUND.
...WAIT!
...THE SOUND?
THAT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, I'LL CHECK JUST IN CASE.
LOOKS LIKE I OWE YOU GUYS ONE.
!!
O-
OI?
NOW THAT HE'S SAID IT, I FINALLY NOTICED THAT THE VOLUME FEELS OUT OF PLACE
THAT'S IT...!

...AS I THOUGHT...
IT'S NOT JUST THEIR SINGING VOICES,
THE SONG'S INSTRUMENTAL VOLUME BALANCE IS COMPLETELY OFF.
THE MIXING IS TERRIBLE.
I THINK IT HAS TO BE ON PURPOSE.
THE ACOUSTICS ROOM!
THE MIC'S VOLUME...?
IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE TO CONTROL THE ACOUSTICS THROUGH THIS TOOL.
IT'S LIKELY THAT THESE ARE ONGOING CHANGES, AND ARE BEING CONTINUED FROM CLOSE-BY.
BESIDES THAT, THEY'RE PROBABLY DOING SOMETHING ELSE. THE SOUND FEELING OUT OF PLACE IS PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THAT.
WE WERE TOO WORRIED WITH ONLY THE JUDGING PROCESS AND THE STAGE...
WE WERE BLINDSIGHTED.

EH?!
RITSUKO-SAN, YOU STAY HERE.
WELL THEN, I'LL GO TO THE ACOUSTICS ROOM.
YOU TAUGHT ME THAT, RITSUKO-SAN.
ONLY YOU CAN KEEP A WATCH OVER RYUUGUU KOMACHI.
"A PRODUCER'S EXISTENCE IS TO SUPPORT".
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT ...
YOU WANT ME TO JUST STAND AND WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?!
AAA.

WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT FACE?

BUT HAVING YOU CLOSE TO US ON-STAGE IS REASSURING!
RICCHAN'S LESSONS WERE SUPER TOUGH,
THE REASON WHY WE CAN KEEP GOING AT A TIME LIKE THIS,
WILL SHE BE ABLE TO TELL THAT WE'RE OKAY~~~?
IF WE TRY OUR HARDEST WHILE HAVING FUN,
IS ALL THANKS, TO YOU.
GO FOR IT
MY RYUUGUU KOMACHI
Go for it

ACOUSTICS ROOM...
WELL THEN, THE MIC PROBLEMS ARE NOT EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONING, BUT ARTIFICIAL...?
THERE'S A HIGH CHANCE OF THAT.
...I'VE DECIDED.
UH-HUH.
HIBIKI-CHAN.
GOT IT.
WE'RE GOING OUT FOR A BIT.
スタスタ
EH...? GOING... WHERE?
MAYBE THEY'RE... GOING TO CHECK IF IT'S PRESIDENT KUROI'S DOING IN THE ACOUSTICS ROOM?
Probably.
バタン

I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD FORGIVE WHAT'S HAPPENED, BUT
OUTSIDERS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENTER THE ACOUSTICS ROOM WITHOUT PERMISSION, RIGHT?

IF YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW, IT'S OBVIOUS.
THEY LEFT TOO SUDDENLY FOR ME TO REACT, BUT
I WANTED TO GO WITH THEM TOO.

WHETHER PRESIDENT KUROI IS THERE OR NOT,
YOU WOULD HAVE SOME NOTICEABLE DIFFICULTY GETTING IN.
AND ABOVE ALL,
IF YOU DO GO, RYUUGUU KOMACHI AND RITSUKO MIGHT NOT END UP BEING THE ONLY ONES IN TROUBLE.

YEAH, LET'S HURRY!
ANYWAY, LET'S HURRY UP AND STOP HARUKA AND THE OTHERS.

...NOW THAT YOU SAY THAT, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SORRY, I GUESS I GOT TOO EMOTIONAL.

EEH?!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO TELL PRODUCER?
BY THE TIME WE DO THAT, THE SONG WILL BE OVER!
IT'S POINTLESS IF WE DON'T MAKE IT IN TIME!
WE ONLY HAVE ONE MINUTE LEFT,
BUT WE ONLY NEED 30 SECONDS.
DON'T YOU WANT TO LET THEM SING WITH ALL OF THEIR MIGHT?
WELL YEAH BUT...
OOH ...
HIBIKI-CHAN, STOP HARUKA-CHAN~~ ...
HM? AH, THAT'S IT!
THE ACOUSTICS ROOM, RIGHT? I GOT IT!
FUEEE?! EVEN HIBIKI-CHAN~~
...HIBIKI-CHAN?
は

IS THIS HOW YOU PLAY FAIR,
PRESIDENT KUROI?!
6月号につづく

THIS IS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT AND THE RAW AND TRANSLATION SHAMELESSLY RIPPED-OFF FROM NAMASSUKA.

I'LL GLADLY TAKE DOWN THIS ONE IF NAMASSUKA REQUESTED IT.

BEST REGARDS,

RAW : NAMASSUKA
TRANSLATION : NAMASSUKA